

SOUTH BEND

APRIL 2006

Building a 21st Century City
MAYOR STEPHEN J. LUECKE

Letter from the Mayor

Hometown Pride...

Dear Neighbors:

Last month I reported on the "behind the scenes" work that our Legal and Administration and Finance Departments provide. This month, I'd like to highlight some of the "on the ground" work of that directly serves our community.

My hat is off to the men and women of Public Works who provide us with safe drinking water, clean the waste when we're done, pick up the trash and yard waste, pave and plow the streets, maintain the traffic signals, and all the other infrastructure work that keeps our City functioning well. South Bend's drinking water exceeds every standard established by the EPA, and the Environmental Services quality testing laboratory received a perfect score on its annual review. Sewer crews not only keep the wastewater system running efficiently, but initiated an award-winning program to plant wildflowers in retention basins, reducing labor costs and adding beauty to our landscape. This past year, the Street Dept. was able to boost our street paving and repair program to a higher production level, and our new RoadPatcher pothole unit helped to increase our efficiency and respond more quickly to complaints. In addition, we completed several major road rebuilds on the north and west sides of the City, and have several more planned for 2006. *We're putting your tax dollars to good work all around the City!*

Maintaining our streets and utilities is a key function of government. Maintaining neighborhoods requires cooperation and partnership. Code Enforcement plays a vital role in this effort, partnering with neighborhoods and property owners to improve and maintain our housing stock and provide environmental and animal control enforcement. The Adopt-A-Block program, which helps residents clean up debris and litter in their neighborhoods, continues to expand, and we continue to work with residents to revitalize our sense of pride of ownership in our homes and community.

Our Community and Economic Development staff is driving planning efforts all around the City, setting goals and objectives for growth. The critical component in this process is community participation from businesses and residents. Not only does it make a better plan, but it also engages the community in a positive way which makes the plans more likely to succeed. City Plan, the City's first comprehensive growth plan in over forty years, will knit these components together and provide a blueprint for years to come.

Our Community Development staff works directly with neighborhoods and the community to build pride and capacity. From over 500 Building Block Grants awarded in 2005 to major initiatives like the Commercial Corridor Program, they are at the center of good things happening in South Bend. Eight new businesses opened on Western Ave., and a new mural was completed at Walnut. Community Development planners support five Neighborhood Partnership Centers, providing focus sites for public investment, community outreach and neighbor-to-neighbor interaction, and efforts like our nationally-recognized Weed & Seed program.

Economic Development staff provides business assistance and manages six development areas. At Blackthorn, in the Airport Economic Development Area, years of planning and public investment continue to generate new jobs and growth.

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THIS MONTH...

Mayor's Letter
Downspout Disconnection Program
SBSO Celebrates Polish Sister City
Notre Dame/Mexico Soccer Games
Yard Waste Pickup Program



Let's celebrate South Bend's rich and diverse Polish culture and the 14th anniversary of our sister city, Czêstochowa, Poland!

The South Bend Symphony Orchestra will welcome Czêstochowa pianist Maciej Zagórski to perform with the Symphony on Saturday, May 13 at the Morris Performing Arts Center. Compositions include Chopin's *Polonaise Militaire* and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 3, "Polish"*, plus Maciej Zagórski performing Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 1*. The Symphony will also showcase local Polish musicians and dancers and Polish cuisine will be served in the Bistro.

Join us for this very special performance. Tickets start at \$18 for adults, \$5 for students and children. Call 574-235-9190, 800-537-6415 or visit www.SouthBendSymphony.org.

SI USTED NO ENTIENDE INGLÉS Y NECESITA AYUDA PARA TRADUCIR ESTE DOCUMENTO, O SI TIENE ALGUNA PREGUNTA, POR FAVOR LLAME AL SR. FEDERICO THON (ASISTENTE DEL ALCALDE) AL TELÉFONO (574) 235-5858 X1000.

Visit Our New Website at www.SouthBendIN.gov!

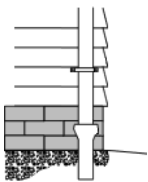
- Mayor's Letter continued from front page -

USF Holland and the Woodwind & Brasswind invested over \$11 million in new or expanded facilities, and Imagineering Finishing Technologies broke ground for a new state-of-the-art facility for its corporate headquarters and metal finishing operations. We will nourish this entrepreneurial spirit to grow more jobs and to be at the forefront of innovation. From Portage Prairie on the north to the Erskines on the south, we are seeing major investment and development plans, and believe that this will help to bring new businesses to South Michigan and South Main as well.

South Bend is the regional center for commerce, finance and culture, and we are committed to continuous improvement. There are many great things happening all over South Bend, and there is great energy in our town. I ask everyone to join in. Take pride in your home. Take pride in your neighborhood. Take pride in your city. South Bend is our hometown. Let's join together to keep it growing strong.

Sincerely,


Mayor Steve



FREE DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION

On many older homes, downspouts that collect rainwater connect directly to the City's sewer system, causing sewers to receive both waste and rain water. A single residence can deposit as much as 27,000 gallons of rain water to the system each year!

During heavy rainfall and melting snow, combined sewer overflow can cause flooding, sewer backup into basements, and odors that escape into the air through downspouts rather than remaining underground.

To help reduce these occurrences, City residents are urged to call the Division of Engineering to schedule a downspout disconnection. The City will send a two-person crew to disconnect the downspout, cap the entry pipe to the sewer, and redirect the downspout to release rain water into the yard, where it is naturally absorbed into the ground. A downspout disconnection can cost as much as \$200, but this service is offered *at no charge* to South Bend residents. Since the program began in 2004, we have disconnected 320 homes from the combined system, reducing our overflow volume by 8.6 million gallons!

Working together we can help eliminate sewer backups and overflows. If you have a downspout connected to the sewer system, please call **235-9251** to schedule a *free* disconnection today, and help make South Bend a "Clean City."



INTERNATIONAL SOCCER RETURNS TO SOUTH BEND!

South Bend and the University of Notre Dame are excited to welcome back the Mexican Women's National Soccer Team, and the Mexican Men's U-17 Soccer Team, for three games at Notre Dame's Alumni Field:

- **FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 7:00 p.m.** - Notre Dame Men's Soccer takes on the Mexico National Men's Team
- **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 5:00 p.m.** - Illinois Women's Soccer battles it out against the Mexico National Women's Team
- **FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 7:00 p.m.** - Notre Dame Women's Soccer takes on the Mexico National Women's Team

Presented by St. Joseph Regional Medical Center. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 18 and younger, and can be purchased by calling the Notre Dame Ticket Office at (574) 631-7356, visiting Gate 1 at the ND Joyce Center Box Office, or online at und.com (click tickets).

SOUTH BEND



SPRING YARD WASTE PICKUP BEGINS

The City encourages all residents to help make South Bend a "Clean City," by taking advantage of our Yard Waste Pickup Program:

♦ **Until April 7** - the Bureau of Solid Waste will collect bagged or bundled yard waste on a call-in basis only - please call 277-8823 for curbside pickup.

♦ **Beginning April 10** - Solid Waste will officially begin its standard Yard Waste Pickup Program. Yard Waste Pickup will take place weekly on a resident's regular trash collection day. Pickup is automatic, call-in is not necessary. Please place yard waste at curbside, in bags or containers, by 6:00 a.m.

Please follow these guidelines for the Yard Waste Program:

1. Yard waste and brush must be bagged or bundled (no more than 4 feet in length or 6 inches in diameter).
2. Use suitable containers (30 gallon trash container or smaller) - *do not place yard waste in City automated trash containers.*
3. Please place yard waste at the curb and separate from trash and debris.
4. Do not place yard waste in the alleys.

Residents are reminded that in order to protect our air quality, burning of leaves is completely prohibited in the City of South Bend and is a violation of City ordinance.

South Bend's yard waste is recycled at the City's Organic Resources Facility, thereby diverting this material from our community's landfill and providing quality mulch for reuse. City residents can reap the rewards of their efforts by going to Organic Resources to pick up high quality mulch and compost for free if you self-load, or at a minimal sliding scale fee if you request assistance with loading. Organic Resources is located at 4340 Trade Drive, off of Nimtz Parkway just ¼ mile west of Bendix Drive. Organic Resources is open 8:00 AM to 3:45 PM, Monday through Friday. Please call 287-6841 for more information.

For more information on the Yard Waste Program, please call Environmental Services at 277-8823.

Visit Our New Website at www.SouthBendIN.gov!